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Title: Regarding picketing by the DMK Party demanding a positive response from the Central Government to the issues raised by the Party.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Sir, I want to urge upon the Government of India. In Tamil Nadu, more than one-lakh persons have been arrested when they were picketing before the offices of the Central Government and the State Government. There is no law and order situation in the state. There is a demand of the people to declare Tamil as an official language, to declare Tamil as a classical language. We want to repeal POTA because that is being misused especially in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the DMK cadre today are picketing before the Central and State Government offices. More than a lakh of DMK cadres and leaders have been arrested and taken into custody.

The DMK President, Kalaingnar M. Karunanidhi has been urging the Gvoernment of India for a very long time and we, the DMK Members of Parliament have also raised the following issues on the floor of the House that Tamil language, which is very rich, ancient and possesses the requisite standards, be declared as a classical language and that Tamil language be declared as the official language...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Sir, Tamil language is recognised even in Malaysia also...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his statement. Please sit down.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Sir, at the introduction stage of the POTA Bill, it was assured by the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister that it will not be misused. Much against the assurance, it is blatantly being misused against the political leaders and media persons in Tamil Nadu. Hence it has to be repealed.

Sir, the Cauvery dispute should be settled immediately to save the Cauvery Delta farmers and steps should be taken to implement the Sethu Samutharam Project immediately.

Sir, urging on these issues, the DMK, despite drawing the attention of the Central Government and after exhausting all attempts for a remedy, picketing is being conducted today in Tamil Nadu.

Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to respond positively on the just and reasonable demands of our Party and give a reply. Thank you very much...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you all cooperate, one after another I can take the notices and give you an opportunity to many Members to speak. But if you go on disturbing the House, I will not be able to accommodate all of you.